



**Agenda Item Number: 2006-8-8B**

## **BERNALILLO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

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**Meeting Date:** August 9, 2006

**Department:** County Manager      **Staff Contact:** Ed Chismar, Parks and Rec. Director  
Becky Alter, Park Open Space and Trail Planner  
Julie M. Baca, Deputy County Manager  
for Community Services Division

**TITLE:** 2006 Renewal of Open Space Mill Levy

**ACTION:** Motion to approve Administrative Resolution **AR** -**2006** to place renewal of the Open Space Mill Levy on the November 2006 ballot for voter consideration.

### **SUMMARY:**

In 1998 and 2000, voters approved a mill levy for open space acquisition, maintenance, and planning. The 2000 mill levy provides funds for the Bernalillo County Open Space Program and expires in December 2006. BC Parks and Recreation (BCPR) staff, the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) and members of the public request mill levy renewal on the ballot for continued acquisition, maintenance and planning of open spaces.

The .20 mill is a reduction of the existing .25 mill and a reduction from the original 1998 .50 mill. The proposed ballot language would read:

“Shall the County of Bernalillo, New Mexico continue the County Open Space mill levy with a decrease from .25 to .20 mill for six years to acquire, maintain, manage, plan and operate land for open space for the purposes of preserving watersheds and groundwater recharge areas, archeological and historic sites, access to mountains and mesas, land for wildlife and native plants, trails, and agricultural land?”

Bernalillo County currently has nine Open Space properties, totaling approximately 1,000 acres that were acquired and developed with the 1998 and 2000 open space mill levies. Resource management and/or site plans were created and are now being implemented for public use, access, enjoyment, and resource enhancement and protection at the Open Space properties.

This funding source is critical to the operation and continuation of the County’s Open Space Program, as well as maintenance of properties as useful and accessible resources to the residents of Bernalillo County. If passed by voters, OSAC’s roles and responsibilities will be defined via a subsequent resolution to assist BCPR’s Open Space Program.

BCPR Staff and OSAC have compiled a list of desirable properties for potential acquisition, which will appear on the 2007-2012 CIP. Following approval of the CIP and mill levy passage by voters in November, BCPR will be able to initiate appraisals and purchase of desirable properties for open space. Properties requested through the CIP process are not accompanied by a funding recommendation, as any purchases will be funded through the continuation of this special mill levy.

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Administrative Resolution AR -2006 placing renewal of Open Space Mill Levy on November 2006 ballot.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

A .20 mill levy will generate \$6.67 for every \$100,000 in assessed property value (\$13.34 for \$200,000, \$20.01 for \$300,000, etc.), annually.

## **STAFF ANALYSIS SUMMARY**

### **COUNTY MANAGER**

The Open Space ballot proposal would renew the mill levy at a reduced rate for a period of six years in order to fund the County's Open Space Program. I recommend approval. TL 7/26/06

### **DEPUTY COUNTY MANAGER FOR**

The open space funding provided from the mill levy renewal will continue critical funding for acquisition and operation of the County's open space properties. If placed on the ballot and approved by voters the tax will provide an additional six years of revenue for the program. Julie Baca 7/26/06

### **LEGAL**

Reviewed by Bond Counsel. 7/24/06

### **FINANCE**

<b>Budget</b>	\$2,388,384 in revenue is projected for FY07. Approval of the .20 mill levy by voters in November 2006 will provide continued funding to acquire, maintain, plan, operate, and manage Open Spaces. Teresa Byrd, Budget Director 7/20/06
<b>Purchasing</b>	No comments required. Billie Baca, 07/06/2006
<b>Contracts</b>	No comments required. Billie Baca, 07/06/2006
<b>Risk Management</b>	No comment required. David A. Baca, Risk Management Administrator. 7/12/06
<b>RE/CIP</b>	No adverse impacts. This is a very beneficial program for the County to pursue on behalf of the public. Right of Way Section is available to assist with the purchases. RGO 7/10/06